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## Economic History and Geography

*British Dominions: Their Present Commercial and Industrial Condition. A Series of General Reviews for Business Men and Students.* Edited by W. J. ASHLEY. (New York: Longmans, Green and Company. Pp. xxviii, 276. \$1.80.)

Nine lectures on economic conditions in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the West Indian Islands are comprised in this volume to which an introduction as valuable as any of the lectures has been written by Profesor Ashley. With one exception—Sir Edmund Walker's address to the shareholders of the Canadian Bank of Commerce at Toronto—the lectures were delivered under the auspices of the University of Birmingham during the winter of 1910-1911. Professor Ashley was fortunate in having at call men who could speak from first-hand knowledge. It is obvious that the course must have been a success; and the result as embodied in this volume is a noteworthy addition to the growing literature on the economics of the British oversea Dominions.

The order in which the lectures were given was: The Empire, by Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, who in the Balfour Administration of 1902-1905 succeeded Mr. Chamberlain as Colonial Secretary; Australia, by Sir George Reid and Sir Alfred Spicer, a paper manufacturer, who had recently been in the Commonwealth as a delegate to the Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire; New Zealand, by Mr. William Pember Reeves, now of the London School of Economics, but for many years Agent-General and later High Commissioner for New Zealand in London; South Africa, by Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson, ex-Governor of Cape Colony, and Mr. Henry Birchbough, a director of the British South Africa Company, who was special trade commissioner in South Africa in 1903, and who is a member of the Chamberlain Tariff Commission; West Indies, by Sir Daniel Morris, of the West Indian Agricultural Department; and the Dominion of Canada, by Mr. W. L. Griffiths of the High Commissioner's Office in London, and by Sir Edmund Walker of Toronto.

The most readable of the papers is Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson's description of British South Africa; but from the point of view of students of economics most value will attach to the lectures by Sir Albert Spicer, Mr. Pember Reeves, Mr. Birchbough and Sir Edmund Walker. Sir Albert Spicer's account of the working of the Australian railway system is from the point of view of a manu-

facturer; while his general remarks show that as compared with Canada or South Africa or even New Zealand, Australia is becoming more and more a poor man's country—a country to which an immigrant with little capital can go with some expectation of not always remaining of the wage-earning class. This change in conditions in Australia is due to the gradual breaking up of the large estates, and the aid given by the government to men of character and energy who are willing to settle on the land. Mr. Birchbough's survey of commercial and industrial conditions in South Africa, which comes down to 1910, is the best short paper in print on the subject, and is particularly serviceable as regards conditions on the Rand and the relation of the mines to the trade of the whole of the country south of the Zambesi. Mr. Griffith's lecture on Canada is perhaps the least valuable of any in the series. Professor Ashley's introduction extends to fifteen pages all used to the best advantage; particularly where he describes the commercial links of Empire, such as the Imperial Intelligence Service and the Imperial Advisory Board on Commercial Affairs which have their centres at the Board of Trade at Whitehall.

EDWARD PORRITT.

*Hartford.*

*Woman and Labor.* By OLIVE SCHREINER. (New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company. 1911. Pp. 299. \$1.25.)

This is one of those books which, by dealing with a topic of popular interest in a picturesque and positive manner, attract more attention than they would deserve for the actual light they throw upon the subjects in question. In the present instance, the "light" is that of a dark lantern flashed here and there, up and down the range of industrial history, to bring into view only such scenes as would substantiate the author's main thesis, which is, briefly, that "the changes which have taken place during the last centuries, and which we sum up under the compendious term modern civilization have tended to rob woman, not merely in part, but almost wholly, of the more valuable part of her ancient domain of productive and social labor; and, where there has not been a determined and conscious resistance on her part, have nowhere spontaneously tended to open out to her new and compensatory fields."

The woman of today, in other words, is in danger of becoming a "parasite," and it is the fear of future danger to the race and